
Public Library

August 15, 2024

Members of Orangeville Council
87 Broadway
Orangeville ON L9W 1K1

Subject: Support for the Extension of the Fare-Free Transit Initiative

On behalf of the Orangeville Public Library Board, I am writing to express our strong support for the extension of the fare-free transit initiative. This initiative aligns closely with our mission to be a place for everyone to connect and discover, where learning and possibility allow each member of our community to soar.

At the Orangeville Public Library, we uphold the values of inclusivity, curiosity, lifelong learning, intellectual freedom, and trust. We believe that accessible and equitable services are essential to respecting the needs and individual experiences of all community members. The fare-free transit initiative embodies these values by removing financial barriers and ensuring that everyone in our community can access reliable transportation.

The benefits of a fare-free transit model are numerous and impactful:

- Removes financial barriers for those who can benefit the most. The board is doing their part to reduce financial barriers as well – the fare-free policy was adopted in 2023 with the same intention of removing barriers to service.
- Encourages more residents to utilize transit, decreasing the number of vehicles on the road.
- Assists in creating a more environmentally sustainable future by providing more transit options to meet the needs of our residents.
- Increases access to employment opportunities for residents who do not have reliable transportation.
- The library has staff that use Orangeville public transit to travel to work. Community survey results (2021) approximately 3% of respondents use public transit to travel to the library – this year the library has seen approximately 50,000 visitors.

During the two-year pilot program, we have seen firsthand how fare-free transit has positively impacted our community. Ongoing data collection and regular updates from town staff to Council have demonstrated the program's success in terms of ridership numbers and financial impact. We believe that continuing this initiative will further enhance the quality of life for all residents of Orangeville.

We urge Council to extend the fare-free transit initiative beyond the pilot program period. By doing so, we can continue to support and protect accessible, equitable services that respect the needs and individual experiences of all community members.

Thank you for considering our request.



Sheri Marks, Chair, Orangeville Public Library Board

Cc David Smith, CAO, Town of Orangeville
Tim Kocialek, General Manager, Infrastructure Services
